BOMBAY COURIER

EXTRAORDINARY.

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THE COURIER,

EXTRAORDINARY.

BOMBAY,

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1811.

HAVING been moſt kindly indulged with the temporary poſſeſſion of ſome Gibraltar Chronicles from the 13th October to the 22d December, we haſten to lay before our readers ſnch part of the contents, as relate to the operations of our army in Portugal. The Chronicles contain a regular ſeries of Lord Wellington's diſpatches to Don Manuel Forfax from the fall of Almeida to the 1ſt December, with the exception of one of the 24th November, which does not appear becauſe the Gibraltar Chronicle of the 7th December which contains it, is wanting.

Three of theſe diſpatches, viz. thoſe of the 30th September, the 20th and 27th October having already appeared in the Indian Journals, are omitted on the preſent occaſion.

Although it appears from their accounts, that, in the ſanguine view which we have hitherto taken of the military affairs in Portugal, the name of victory may have been a little hyperbolically and unreaſonably applied to the battle of Buſaco and that of retreat to the late retrograde movement of Maſſena, yet we cannot but conſider the three months between the fall of Almeida and the date of our lateſt accounts as forming a moſt diſtinguiſhed æra in Lord Wellington's military life. The moſt ſplendid courſe of uninterrupted ſucceſs could ſcarcely have more ſtrikingly diſplayed the talents of the Commander, or the daring and diſcipline of the army.

We have ſince our laſt collected the following particulars.

On the 17th December a committee was appointed by the Houſe of Commons to aſcertain his Majeſty's inability for the diſcharge of the regal functions and to prepare and bring in a bill for the eſtabliſhment of a Regency.

On the 14th of November, Mr. Madeſon Preſident of the United Sates publiſhed a proclamation declaring that as France had recalled the Berlin and Milan Decrees, the non-intercourſe law ceaſed as to that country, and if great Britain did not recall the orders in Council on or before the 2d February the non-intercourſe law ſhould, on that day, be regorcuſly enforced againſt all Britiſh ſhips and veſſels.

The duty impoſed by Buonaparte, and adopted by all his vaſſal States, on Colonial produce is 40 per Cent.

Jeffery the ſeaman landed on a deſart Iſland by Captain Lake is brought back from the New England. After having received liberal gifts from the Lake family he has been diſcharged from the Navy and has gone back to Neown village in Devonſhire.

The accounts of the ſafety of Mungo Park are again doubted.

Diſpatches from H. E. Lord Viſcount Wellington, to H. E. Don Manoel Pereira Forjaz.

HEAD QUARTERS, ALCOBACA October 5, 1810.

M. I. and E. Sir,

The enemy having puſhed on their advanced guard, in great force, in front of Coimbra, on the evening of the 30th of laſt month and the morning of the 1ſt inſtant, I thought it proper to withdraw the Advanced Guard of the allied army to this bank of the Mondego on the ſame day, the 1ſt inſtant, and to continue to march the main body back.

Upon the retreat of the Britiſh Cavalry from Fernas, Capt. Kraukenberg of the 1ſt Huſſars, and Capt. Cockes of the 16th Light Dragoons, attacked and charged the enemy. In this ſkirmiſh, Capt. Kraukenberg was wounded, but, I am happy to be able to add, ſlightly.

I continued to withdraw this part of the army, by the Soureand Pombal roads, towards Leiria, near which city the whole arrived on the 3d inſtant, and halted yeſterday, the out-poſts being in Pombal. Lieutenant General Hill, with the body under his command, fell back, by the Eſpinhal road, upon Thomar which he reached yeſterday.

The enemy's Advanced Guard yeſterday arrived at Redinha, compelling our Picquets to evacuate Pombal in the evening; and I received information, that the 8th Corps d' Armée was at Condera, and the other troops on this ſide of the Mondego.

I have, accordingly continued my retreat this day, and our advanced guard will, before dark, be on this ſide of Leiria.

With ſome trifling exceptions, the troops have continued to behave moſt regularly, and endured no fatigues.

The army is at no great diſtance from the poſition where I intend to receive the enemy, and is in the beſt ſpirits.

By all the accounts I have, the enemy, are undergoing great hardſhips. The inhabitants of the towns and villages have generally abandoned their abodes, carrying along with them whatever they could remove and might be of uſe to the enemy; and, conſequently, the habit of plunder, which has ſo long been cheriſhed and encouraged in the enemy's armies, cannot derive any advantage from the few articles which the Inhabitants of the country may have left behind, from the impoſſibility of bringing them off.

I have the honor &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

To H. E. Don Manuel Pereira Forjax.

P. S. I have learned, that General Grandorge and General Foit, belonging to the 2d Corps, were wounded in the action of the 27th of laſt month, as alſo the officers whom I mentioned in my preceding diſpatch; it being now further added, that Gen. Graindorge has ſince died of his wounds.

LISBON, OCTOBER 6.—H. E. Lord Wellington incloſed, on the 3d inſtant, to H. E. Don M. P. Forjax the original of the following diſpatch from Maſſena to Bertheir, which has been intercepted.

Monſeigneur,

The army marched out from Almeida on the 16th, as I had the honor of informing Y. E. The three Corps d'Armée arrived, on the 19th at Viſeu, having paſſed horrid roads. The enemy are retreating, on all ſides, upon our approach, and have collected their forces at Coimbra. I ſtationed the 2d and 6th Corps at the bridge of the Criz.

The Engliſh who occupied this point were diſlodged. The 8th Corps is as yet in Viſeu. The grand park of artillery and the heavy baggage remain behind: they will not be here until to-morrow. The baggage was attacked by 2000 Portugueſe whom 200 men only drove back with loſs (1). It is impoſſible to find worſe roads: they are covered with rocks. Our artillery and baggage have ſuffered conſiderably, and I am obliged to wait for them. When they come, I muſt leave them two days in Viſeu to get repaired, and I will purſue my march towards Coimbra, where I am told, that I ſhall find the Engliſh and Portugueſe united. Monſeigneur, we are marching through deſerts; there is not one ſoul to be met with; all is abandoned. The Engliſh carry cruelty to the length of ordering the poor fellows who might remain in their houſes, to be ſhot. Women, children, old people—all fly; in ſhort, there is not one guide to be had any where (2).

Our men find potatoes and other vegetables; they are very well pleaſed, and long for the moment when they ſhall meet the enemy (3).

But few of them have been taken ill during the march (4).

I am, with the moſt profound reſpect &c.

(Signed) MASSENA.

(1) This was the body of Militia under the orders of Colonel Trant, which took 100 priſoners, and retreated in conſequence of the Enemy's having received reinforcements.

M. I. and E. Sir,

The army continued its retreat by the Alcobaca and Rio Midor roads, and the Diviſion under the Command of Lieut. General Hill by that of Santarem. The movement of that part of the army which is under my immediate command, was covered by the Britiſh cavalry under the orders of Sir Stapleton Cotton; while the movement of the troops under Lieut. General Hill was protected by the Portugueſe horſe and by the Britiſh Regiment of Light Dragoons, both commanded by Major General Fane.

The Britiſh Cavalry had ſeveral opportunities of diſtinguiſhing itſelf, which it improved; and I incloſe to Y. E. the reports relative thereto, which I have received from General Sir Stapleton Cotton.—It being my duty, at the ſame time, to mention, that I am ſenſible of the obligations which I owe to that Corps.

The ſame Corps immediately followed our advanced Guard of infantry under the Command of Big. General Craufurd.

On the 8th commenced the rains which, in this ſeaſon of the year, uſually fall in the Kingdom of Portugal; and it has ſince continued to pour very hard, which has probably increaſed the Enemy's difficulties and retarded their progreſs.

They have brought forward a few troops in front of our right flank, and alſo patrolled about, with a ſtrong diviſion of foot and horſe as far as Sobral de Monteagraco, on the 11th inſtant, compelling our picquets of Cavalry and infantry to retreat and fall back.

A conſiderable diviſion of foot, which I underſtood to be the advanced guard of the 8th Corps, marched, in the afternoon of the 12th to Sobral whence Lieut. General Sir Brent Spencer withdrew the advanced guard of his diviſion; and the Enemy have ſince continued in that poſition.

This day, the Enemy have alſo attacked the picquets of General Cole's diviſion at the foot of the Sobral; but this attack of theirs has produced no great effect. I have learned with the greateſt ſatisfaction, that the Portugueſe troops of Colonel Hervey's Brigade, compoſed of the 23d and 11th Regiments, have again diſtinguiſhed themſelves upon this occaſion. Colonel Hervey has unfortunately been wounded, but, I hope, ſlightly.

As ſoon as I ſhall have found out and aſcertained the Enemy's line of operations, I will take the line of defence which I have choſen for our army; and, as I conceive, that I have every reaſon to hope for ſucceſs, I intend to bring matters to an iſſue, and to contend for the poſſeſſion and independence of Portugal in one of the ſtrong poſitions to be found in this part of the Country.

The Marquis de la Romana marched out on the 8th inſtant, for Campo Major, with a view to come and join this army and ſhare our fate. All is quiet in the North of Portugal. I have heard, that one of the detachments of the troops under the orders of Gen. Bacellar, commanded by Colonel Wilſon, was in poſſeſſion of Buſſaco on the 6th. It is alſo ſaid, that Colonel Trant has intered Coimbra; but, as all the Inhabitants have left their reſidence and the bad weather has prevented all communication by Sea, I cannot, at preſent, get correct intelligence from that part of the country.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON,

Head Quarters Ajuda, Oct. 13th 1810.

(2) It is not the Engliſh that compel the Inhabitants to fly; it is the love of their country, and the unheard of horrors which the French commit. In Canas de Senhorim, they put to death an unfortunate man whom they overtook there; and higher up, having found ſome families in the Serra, they publicly raviſhed the women, &c. What they are doing in Spain, is known to all Europe.

(3) And they got much by the firſt meeting?

(4) Becauſe it had only laſted ſix days.

PERO NEGRO, Nov. 3, 1810.—I have not noticed any alteration either in the poſition occupied by the Enemy or in the number of their Troops ſince I wrote to Y. E. on the 27th of laſt month, and yet the Enemy have on the bank of the Tagus a conſiderable body of men particularly of horſe poſted between Santarem and Punhete and there is reaſon to believe that General Loiſon Diviſion's of Foot has not marched towards thoſe points as I ſtated to Y. E. in the ſaid diſpatch. Some of the Corps which compoſed that diviſion have remained in the Enemy's Camps in front of this army; the Enemy have alſo ſent ſome Troops chiefly Cavalry acroſs the Zezere higher up than Punhete apparently with a deſign to reconnoitre the roads in that direction and the fortification of Abrantes, but I ſuppoſe that the late rains have ſwelled that river and that thoſe Troops muſt have marched back. The deſerters generally report that the enemy continue to be in the utmoſt diſtreſs for want of Proviſions. The declaration of the deſerters and priſoners have conſtantly been the ſame ever ſince the Enemy occupied the ground which their army covers; but it is certain that if thoſe declarations had been true to the extent ſtated at firſt the Enemy could not have remained ſo long in their poſition. It is impoſſible to form an eſtimate of the quantity of Proviſion which they found in the Towns and Country where they are ſtationed, but it is a fact that they can draw none from any other part of the Country becauſe it is all in the power of our Troops. The Garriſons of Peniche and Obidos, which latter Town was only lately occupied by Captain Fenwick an officer in the Portugueſe ſervice under the orders of Brigadier General Blunt, as well as the Britiſh Cavalry continue to wage a deſtructive war in the rear of the Enemy's right wing.

I incloſe to Y. E the copy of a letter from Marſhal Beresford on the reſult of the operation of Brigadier General Blunt and Captain Fenwick. General Silveyra under date the 19th of laſt month informs me he has heard that General Bonnet had evacuated Aſturias and that he is ſuppoſed to have taken the road of Biſcay. I have letters of the 27th October from Eſtramadura and Caſtromarin in which mortier is ſtated to remain quiet in Seville with the diviſion under his command and to have a great many ſick. The lateſt accounts from Cadiz come down to the 28th of laſt month, I have the honor to be &c.

(Signed(WELLINGTON.

From Marshal Beresford to Lord Wellington.

My Lord,

I have the honor of tranſmitting to you the accompanying return extracted from thoſe which I have received from Brigadier General Blunt ſtating the number of the killed and priſoners taken from the Enemy by the detachment which the Brigadier ſent from Peniche to Obidos under Captain Fenwick's orders, excluſive of 100 wounded who could not be brought off on account of the dangerous ſtate they lay in. I ſeize this opportunity to recommend to Y. E. the conſpicuous zeal and ability evinced by Brigadier General Blunt in directing Obidos to be occupied immediately after the Enemy's principal force had gone through. The Brigadier ſpeaks in the higheſt terms of Captain Fenwick's activity and conduct in the command of that ſmall detachment which he ſent from Peniche under his orders. I have the honor &c.

(Signed) BERESFORD.

Zapalaria Nov. 3, 1810.

Return of the Enemy's killed, wounded and taken by the detachment under the Command of Captain Fenwick in Obidos.

On the 27th of October 1 Serjeant and 19 Privates taken and on the following days of the ſame month 5 more; on the 1ſt of November, 7 Privates

killed, taken alſo from the enemy 16 Bullocks, 2 Horſes and 200 Beds for hoſpital.

PERO NEGRO, Nov. 10, 1810. Nothing of importance has occured ſince I wrote to Y. E. on the 3d inſtant. The enemy on the 5th made a reconnoitring upon Abrantes and under color of of this operation ſent a ſmall body of foot and horſe, through lower Beyra, towards Villa Velha, evidently with a view to take poſſeſſion of the Bridge which there was on the Tagus in that Town; but theſe detachments found that it had been deſtroyed and marched back to Sobreyra Formoſa. Moſt or the Bouts which the Enemy have been able to collect from ſeveral Points in the neighbourhood have been uſed for the Bridge which the French have made on the river Zezere and which I hope will be deſtroyed as it is in a bad condition—By the lateſt account from Badajos of the 4th inſtant I ſee that the diviſion under the command of Mortier continues in Seville and that many of his men are ſick.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

CARTAXO Nov. 21, 1810. The Enemy have withdrawn ffom the poſition which they had occupied the whole of laſt month, the right of which reſted on Sobral and the left on the bank of the Tagus. This retreat was effected in the night of the 14th inſtant, their right wing marching by the Alenquer and Alcoentre road, while their left proceeded by that of Villanova. In this order they purſued their retreat, on the following days, towards Santarem. The allied army marched out of its poſitions on the morning of the 15th in purſuit of the enemy. The advanced Guard was already in Alenquer on the 15th, in Azembuja and Alcoentre on the 16th together with the Britiſh Cavalry, and here on the 17th. During thoſe movements we took upwards of 400 Priſoners from the Enemy. The Troops which I have mentioned above were followed on their march by the diviſion under the command of Sir Blunt Spencer and by the fifth diviſion of foot under the command by Major General Leith. On the 17th inſt. I received a diſpatch addreſſed to me by Major General Fane from the left bank of the Tagus in which he ſtated that the Enemy had thrown another Bridge over the Zezere in conſequence of floods having carried off the firſt which they had made.

He informed me other ſame time that the enemy had marched on that day a ſtrong body of troops from Santarem towards Golegan. I immedietely ſent General Hill with the diviſion under his command over to the left bank of the Tagus; for what purpoſe he embarked at Vallada in the boats which Admiral Berckley had ordered to that point, in order to aid and facilitate the operations of the army. On the 18th the Britiſh Cavalry and Advanced Guard found the Enemy's Rear ſo ſtrongly poſted in front of Santarem, that it was impoſſible to attack it with any proſpect of ſucceſs; and, although from our poſts on the left of the Tagus, I receive accounts of the Enemy's continuing to ſend troops and baggage, along the right, towards the Zezere, yet their Advanced Guard remains on the ſame point where they have, as well as in Santarem, a number of troops able to defend the ſtrong poſition of Santarem againſt any attack that might be made on their front. At the ſame time, the heavy rains which have fallen ſince the 15th have ſo completely deſtroyed the roads and ſwelled the rivers and ſtreams, that I have hitherto found it impoſſible to diſlodge the Enemy from the poſition which they occupy in Santarem. The bad ſtate of the roads has alſo been the occaſion of the Enemy's continuing ſo long in Santarem.—Notwithſtanding they have marched ſtrong bodies of troops from that town to the Eaſtward, I do not know of any great number of their men having paſſed over to the other bank of the Zezere. I cannot, for the ſame reaſon, aſcertain whether it be the Enemy's intention wholly to withdraw from Portugal. Their army being collected between Santarem and the Zezere, finds itſelf in a ſituation which enables it to maintain that ſtrong poſition, until it be joined by the reinforcements aſſembled on the frontiers.

I have had no diſpatch from General Silveyra (who is on the frontiers of Upper Beyra), ſince the 9th inſt. Under that date he informed me of the movements of ſeveral bodies of the Enemy's troops in Caſtile, which, I ſuppoſe may amount to 20,000 men, apparently employed in making requiſitions of proviſions for the army of Portugal Theſe accounts have been confirmed by others of a later date, tranſmitted from Salamaca.

Having advanced from the poſitions where I had ſtationed myſelf, with a view to draw the Enemy to a ſpot whence I might compel them to retire, without venturing any thing in the attack, it is my duty, in juſtice to Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher and the officers of the Royal Engineers, to call Y. E—y's attention to the ſkill and celerity with which they ſo fortified the ſaid poſitions, that any attack on the line occupied by the allied army, would be highly hazardous, nay muſt decidedly terminate to the Enemy's diſadvantage.

The French army may perhaps be reinforced, and this circumſtance induces me, according to the ſtate of affairs in the Peninſula, to reſume the ſame poſitions; but I do not think they can, or have it in their power to, bring againſt us ſuch forces as can make the contеſt at all doubtful. For theſe advantages we are indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher and to the officers of the Royal Corps of Engineers among whom I ought to make particular mention of Captain Chapman who has likewiſe rendered himſelf uſeful upon other occaſion.

In my diſpatch of the 20th of October, I acquainted Y. E., that the Marquis de la Romana had joined the Allied Army in the fortified poſitions before Liſbon, with numerous detachments of the Spaniſh Army under his command. The Marquis continues amongſt us, and from him I receive moſt valuable advice, and effectual and important aſſiſtance.

During the time that we occupied the abovementioned poſitions, the whole duty was done with the utmoſt regularity and to my ſatisfaction, notwithſtanding the force which occupied them conſiſted, as Y. E. knows of different troops and divers nations. Theſe advantages I entirely aſcribe to the zeal with which are animated, for the cauſe in we are engaged the commanders and general officers of the armies of the different nations and to their wiſe diſpoſitions, and I have no doubt but the ſame harmony will prevail all the time that the union of the armies may be deemed neceſſary.

Lieutenant General Sir Brent Spencer, Marſhal Sir William Carr Beresford and the Officers of the Staff have continued to render me all the ſervices in their power. I have &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

LISBON, DEC. 5, 1810.

Diſpatch from Lord Wellington, to D. Miguel Pereira Forjaz.

CARTAXO, DEC. 1, 1810.

The body of the Enemy's troops whoſe advanced guard was engaged on the 14th of laſt month, with thoſe under General Silveyra moved on to the left and on the 19th reached Sabugal at the head of the Coa, whence it marched to Belmonte and Fundaon and proceeding by the two roads which lead to the Zezere acroſs lower Beyra it arrived at Cardigas on the 25th. The armed Peaſants of lower Beyra have kept conſtantly hanging on the enemy's rear during theſe movements and greatly haraſſed them. This detachment of the enemy's troops is compoſed, of thoſe which left Portugal under General Foix who had taken the road to Paris; of ſuch diviſions of the three corps of the army of Portugal as had been left behind to garriſon Salamanca, Cuidad Rodrigo and Almeida; of 3 or 4 Battalions which had been detached from the 8th corps by the Emperor's order and placed under the command of General Seras for the purpoſe of acting on the frontier and of the convaleſents of the army of Portugal amounting to about 2400 men. It is not eaſy to aſcertain the exact numbers of this reinforcement but I do not ſuppoſe them to exceed 8000 men. The troops of the 9th Corps have occupied the places and points in Caſtile where were ſtationed thoſe which have lately entered Portugal.

The enemy continued in the city of Santarem which they have ſtrongly fortified, they have alſo fortified a paſs at Punhete on the left of the Zezere and reinforced their troops in the environs of Pernes and Alcanhede on the right of the poſition of Santarem, thus ſhewing that our movemsnts in that quarter give them great uneaſineſs.

The weather has continued very bad ever ſince the middle of November; the by-roads are impaſſable for the artillery and almoſt ſo for the infantry while at the ſame time the rivers and ſtreams have conſiderably ſwelled. By all the accounts which I receive from Caſtile I find that the light parties are very active and ſucceſsful againſt the enemy and that they have been particularly ſo of late. I have the honor &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

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CARTAXO Nov. 21, 1810. The Enemy have withdrawn from the position which they had occupied the whole of laſt month, the right of which reſted on Sobral and the left on the bank of the Tagus. This retreat was effected in the night of the 14th inſtant, their right wing marching by the Alenquer and Alcoentre road, while their left proceeded by that of Villanova. In this order they purſued their retreat, on the following days, towards Santarem. The allied army mrached out of its positions on the morning of the 15th in purſuit of the enemy. The advanced Guard was already in Alenquer on the 15th, in Azembuja and Alcoentre on the 16th together with the British Cavalry, and here on the 17th. During thoſe movements we took upwards of 400 Priſoners from the Enemy. The Troops which I have mentioned above were followed on their march by the diviſion under the command of Sir Blunt Spencer and by the fifth diviſion of foot under the command by Major General Leith. On the 17th inſt. I received a diſpatch addreſſed to me by Major General Fane from the left bank of the Tagus in which he ſtated that the Enemy had thrown another Bridge over the Zezere in conſequence of floods having carried off the firſt which they had made.

He informed me other ſame time that the enemy had marched on that day a ſtrong body of troops from Santarem towards Golegan. I immedietely ſent General Hill with the diviſion under his command over to the left bank of the Tagus; for what purpoſe he embarked at Vallada in the boats which Admiral Berckley had ordered to that point, in order to aid and facilitate the operations of the army. On the 18th the Britiſh Cavalry and Advanced Guard found the Enemy's Rear ſo ſtrongly poſted in front of Santarem, that it was impoſſible to attack it with any proſpect of ſucceſs; and, although, from our poſts on the left of the Tagus, I receive accounts of the Enemy's continuing to ſend troops and baggage, along the right, towards the Zezere, yet their Advanced Guard remains on the ſame point where they have, as well as in Santarem, a number of troops able to defend the ſtrong poſition of Santarem againſt any attack that might be made on their front. At the ſame time, the heavy rains which have fallen ſince the 15th have ſo completely deſtroyed the roads and ſwelled the rivers and ſtreams, that I have hitherto found it impoſſible to diſlodge the Enemy from the poſition which they occupy in Santarem. The bad ſtate of the roads has alſo been the occaſion of the Enemy's continuing ſo long in Santarem.—Notwithſtanding they have marched ſtrong bodies of troops from that town to the Eaſtward, I do not know of any great number of their men having paſſed over to the other bank of the Zezere. I cannot, for the ſame reaſon, aſcertain whether it be the Enemy's intention wholly to withdraw from Portugal. Their army being collected between Santarem and the Zezere, finds itſelf in a ſituation which enables it to maintain that ſtrong poſition, until it be joined by the reinforcements aſſembled on the frontiers.

I have had no diſpatch from General Silveyra (who is on the frontiers of Upper Beyra), ſince the 9th inſt. Under that date he informed me of the movements of ſeveral bodies of the Enemy's troops in Caſtile, which, I ſuppoſe may amount to 20,000 men, apparently employed in making requiſitions of proviſions for the army of Portugal. Theſe accounts have been confirmed by others of a later date, tranſmitted from Salamaca.

Having advanced from the poſitions where I had ſtationed myſelf, with a view to draw the Enemy to a ſpot whence I might compel them to retire, without venturing any thing in the attack, it is my duty, in juſtice to Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher and the officers of the Royal Engineers, to call Y. E—y's attention to the ſkill and celerity with which they ſo fortified the ſaid poſitions, that any attack on the line occupied by the allied army, would be highly hazardous, nay muſt decidedly terminate to the Enemy's diſadvantage.

The French army may perhaps be reinforced, and this circumſtance induces me, according to the ſtate of affairs in the Peninſula, to reſume the ſame poſitions; but I do not think they can, or have it in their power to, bring againſt us ſuch forces as can make the conteſt at all doubtful. For theſe advantages we are indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher and to the officers of the Royal Corps of Engineers, among whom I ought to make particular mention of Captain Chapman who has likewiſe rendered himſelf uſeful upon other occaſion.

In my diſpatch of the 20th of October, I acquainted Y. E., that the Marquis de la Romana had joined the Allied Army in the fortified poſitions before Liſbon, with numerous detachments of the Spaniſh Army under his command. The Marquis continues amongſt us, and from him I receive moſt valuable advice, and effectual and important aſſiſtance.

During the time that we occupied the abovementioned poſitions, the whole duty was done with the utmoſt regularity and to my ſatisfaction, notwithſtanding the force which occupied them conſiſted, as Y. E. knows of different troops and divers nations. Theſe advantages I entirely aſcribe to the zeal with which are animated, for the cauſe in we are engaged the commanders and general officers of the armies of the different nations and to their wiſe diſpoſitions, and I have no doubt but the ſame harmony will prevail all the time that the union of the armies may be deemed neceſſary.

Lieutenant General Sir Brent Spencer, Marſhal Sir William Carr Beresford and the Officers of the Staff have continued to render me all the ſervices in their power. I have &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

LISBON, DEC. 5, 1810.

Diſpatch from Lord Wellington, to D. Miguel Pereira Forjaz.

CARTAXO, DEC. 1, 1810.

The body of the Enemy's troops whoſe advanced guard was engaged on the 14th of laſt month, with thoſe under General Silveyra moved on to the left and on the 19th reached Sabugal at the head of the Coa, whence it marched to Belmonte and Fundaon and proceeding by the two roads which lead to the Zezere acroſs lower Beyra it arrived at Cardigas on the 25th. The armed Peaſants of lower Beyra have kept conſtantly hanging on the enemy's rear during theſe movements and greatly haraſſed them. This detachment of the enemy's troops is compoſed, of thoſe which left Portugal under General Foix who had taken the road to Paris; of ſuch diviſions of the three corps of the army of Portugal as had been left behind to garriſon Salamanca, Cuidad Rodrigo and Almeida; of 3 or 4 Battalions which had been detached from the 8th corps by the Emperor's order and placed under the command of General Seras for the purpoſe of acting on the frontier and of the convaleſents of the army of Portugal amounting to about 2400 men. It is not eaſy to aſcertain the exact numbers of this reinforcement but I do not ſuppoſe them to exceed 8000 men. The troops of the 9th Corps have occupied the places and points in Caſtile where were ſtationed thoſe which have lately entered Portugal.

The enemy continued in the city of Santarem which they have ſtrongly fortified, they have alſo fortified a paſs at Punhete on the left of the Zezere and reinforced their troops in the environs of Pernes and Alcanhede on the right of the poſition of Santarem, thus ſhewing that our movements in that quarter give them great uneaſineſs.

The weather has continued very bad ever ſince the middle of November; the by-roads are impaſſable for the artillery and almoſt ſo for the infantry while at the ſame time the rivers and ſtreams have conſiderably ſwelled. By all the accounts which I receive from Caſtile I find that the light parties are very active and ſucceſsful againſt the enemy and that they have been particularly ſo of late. I have the honor &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

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